

FOREWORD

The Water Use Efficiency Program, like all components of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program (CALFED or Program), is being developed and evaluated at a programmatic level. The Program is completing Phase II, in which the CALFED agencies have developed a Preferred Program Alternative that has been subject to a comprehensive programmatic environmental review. This report describes both the long-term programmatic actions that are assessed in the Programmatic EIS/EIR, as well as certain more specific actions that may be carried out during implementation of the Program. The programmatic actions in a long-term program of this scope necessarily are described generally and without detailed site-specific information. More detailed information will be analyzed as the Program is refined in its next phase.

Implementation of Phase III is expected to begin in 2000, after the Programmatic EIS/EIR is finalized and adopted. Because of the size and complexity of the alternatives, the Program likely will be implemented over a period of 20-30 years. Program actions will be refined as implementation proceeds, initially focusing on the first 7 years (Stage 1). Subsequent site-specific proposals that involve potentially significant environmental impacts will require site-specific environmental review that tiers off the Programmatic EIS/EIR. Some local actions also may be subject to permit approval from regulatory agencies.

The CALFED Water Use Efficiency Program is based on the recognition that implementation of efficiency measures occurs mostly at the local and regional level. The role of CALFED agencies in water use efficiency will be to offer support and incentives through expanded programs to provide planning, technical, and financial assistance. CALFED agencies also will support institutional arrangements that provide local water suppliers an opportunity to demonstrate that cost-effective efficiency measures are being implemented. Some potential water use efficiency benefits, such as water quality improvements, may be regional or statewide rather than local. These are situations in which CALFED planning and cost-share support may be particularly effective.

The CALFED Water Use Efficiency Program will (1) establish Quantifiable Objectives; (2) offer support and incentives through expanded programs to provide planning, technical, and financial assistance; (3) monitor progress toward objectives; and (4) if these objectives are not met, re-evaluate management options. The Program will periodically evaluate the Quantifiable Objectives in light of new information and make appropriate revisions (up or down) to the objectives.

The program described in this Water Use Efficiency Program Plan is still under development. The actual implementation during Stage 1 and beyond may be revised, including modification, deletion, or addition of individual actions or program components, based upon availability of resources, including funding and personnel; responses to the program proposal from the public, stakeholders, and legislatures; and responses by the program to implementation experience.

